

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
June 14 & 15, 2005**

The regular meeting of the Washington State Transportation Commission was called to order at 9 A.M., on June 14, 2005 in Room 1D2 of the Transportation Building in Olympia, Washington.

Commissioners present at the meeting were: Chair Stedman, Ed Barnes, Bob Distler, Dick Ford, Elmira Forner, Michele Maher and Dan O'Neal.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Commissioner Distler requested that the January 18 & 19 and March 23, 2005 be amended before approval.

It was moved by the Commissioner Maher and seconded by Commissioner Ford to approve the meeting minutes for February 14, 2005, April 27, 2005 and January 18 & 19, 2005 and March 23, 2005 as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

TOLLING STUDY WORKPLAN

Secretary MacDonald shared that he received a letter from Representative Kilmer regarding the development of sound policies as tolling is considered in Washington State.

The Commission was provided \$1.5 million by the Legislature in the 2005-07 Transportation Budget to conduct, with the technical assistance of the Department, a study of the state's transportation system to determine the feasibility of administering tolls on specific transportation facilities or a network of facilities (for further information refer to agenda item 2 handout).

Commissioners and Secretary MacDonald discussed the scope of the Tolling Study.

TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS

Barb Savary, Transit Safety and Asset Management Specialist, presented the Transit Asset Management Plans developed at the direction of the Legislature. She requested the approval of Resolution 672 – Transit Asset Management Plans.

It was moved by Commissioner Barnes and seconded by Commissioner Maher to approve Resolution 672 – Transit Asset Management Plans. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Distler expressed concern with the approval process and the language of the Resolution. Commissioner Ford concurred, in part, that the language in the Resolution should be discussed.

Jennifer Ziegler, Administrator, suggested that the Commission move for reconsideration of Resolution 672 until the language can be considered.

It was moved by Commissioner Ford and seconded by Commissioner Maher to reconsider the Resolution's approval. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Distler and seconded by Commissioner Maher to approve Resolution 672 with amended language. The motion passed unanimously.

ASOTIN COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT AUTHORITY – INITIAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Don Chartock, Special Needs Coordinator, Public Transportation and Rail Division, WSDOT, requested the Commission's approval of the Asotin County Public Transportation Benefit Area Comprehensive Transit Plan. The Asotin County Public Transportation Benefit Area (PTBA) has been reviewed by the Department to ensure that all of the required elements have been met.

It was moved by Commissioner Barnes and seconded by Commissioner Forner to approve the Asotin County Comprehensive Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC AND LEGISLATOR COMMENT PERIOD

Don Williams, citizen, shared his concerns regarding project tolling and system equity.

Randy Boss, citizen, shared his concerns regarding tolling and public perception.

PUBLIC PRIVATE WORKPLAN

Paula Hammond, Chief of Staff and Jill Satran, Senior Policy Analyst, WSDOT, provided an update regarding public/private partnerships. The PPI Program was substantially altered during the 2005 Legislative session, with the passage of SHB 1541. As a result the Transportation Innovative Partnerships Program was established (for further information on agenda item 6 refer to handout).

Ms. Ziegler noted that the State of Oregon Transportation Commission has extended an invitation to the Commission to meet and discuss the Columbia River Crossing partnership.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary MacDonald shared information regarding several topics. He specifically addressed the audit of the Hood Canal Bridge project. He also discussed the Regional Transportation Investment District and Department's roles.

Secretary MacDonald and Commissioners thanked Jerry Ellis, Director, Transportation Economic Partnerships Office, for her many years of service as a public servant, specifically for her service with the Department of Transportation.

WASHINGTON TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Elizabeth Robbins, Manager, Policy Development and Regional Coordination, WSDOT, opened the Phase 2 Workshop by providing an overview of the highlights of previous workshops. She noted that today's workshop consists of Health and the Environment and Strong Economy and Good Jobs.

Judith Boekholder, Immediate Past Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) Chair, Councilwoman, City of Toppenish, provided a briefing regarding the history of CERB and the Department's partnership in the Rural Economic Vitality Program. She explained the need for future collaboration.

Dick Larman, Director, Business and Project Development Unit, Washington State Department Community Trade and Economic Development, explained clusters, industry targets and industry focuses. He explained that the objective is regional and global competitiveness that will make for an economy that will be sustainable.

Charlie Howard, Transportation Planning Director, Puget Sound Regional Council, Prosperity Partnership, shared that as the economy changes the way the world does business is changing. The Prosperity Partnership is geared to look at the region's economy, and create an environment where jobs are created in the Pacific Northwest. He noted that regional collaboration as the key approach.

Ken Olson, Executive Director, Palouse Economic Development Council, Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization, shared that economic development is a partnership among organizations. He provided an overview of the International Economic Development Council's view of economic development.

COMMISSION MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Chair Stedman announced that the Commission would be having a joint meeting with the State of Oregon Transportation Commission on July 20, 2005. He also announced that the Commission would be holding a Tolling work session, June 28, 2005 and its local meeting June 29, 2005 in Chelan.

WASHINGTON TRANSPORTATION PLAN WORKSHOP (cont'd)

Ms. Robbins continued the WTP workshop with a briefing regarding Health and the Environment.

Megan White, Director, Environmental Services, WSDOT, briefed the Commission regarding how the environment can be protected. She provided an overview of state environmental laws (for further information refer to agenda item 8 handout).

It was moved by Commissioner Distler and seconded by Commissioner Barnes that the Chair appoint a team of three members to represent the entire Commission to work with Ms. Robbins, Secretary MacDonald, Departmental staff and the consultant to exchange information as necessary to come up with a draft of the Washington Transportation Plan (WTP) for the August Commission meeting. Also to enlist assistance from Secretary

MacDonald and Departmental staff as needed. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Stedman appointed Commissioners O’Neal, Stedman and Distler to serve as members of the WTP Team.

Chair Stedman appointed Commissioners Forner, Maher and Barnes to serve as members of the Rail Study Team.

Chair Stedman appointed Commissioners Ford, Maher and Distler to serve as members of the Tolling Study Team.

Chair Stedman appointed Commissioners Forner, Barnes and Stedman to serve as members of the Public/Private Team.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

It was moved by Commissioner Ford and seconded by Commissioner Forner to recommend that Commissioner O’Neal serve as Chair of the Commission effective July 1, 2005. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ford announced that selection of Vice Chair is temporarily deferred.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m., on June 15, 2005.

WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAN O’NEAL, Chair

DICK FORD, Vice-Chair

EDWARD BARNES, Member

VACANT

ELMIRA FORNER, Member

ROBERT S. DISTLER, Member

DALE STEDMAN, Member

DOUGLAS MACDONALD, Ex-Officio Member
Secretary of Transportation

ATTEST:

REEMA GRIFFITH, Administrator

DATE OF APPROVAL